Increase in profits of drug manufacturing companies

2687. SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a study undertaken by the Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy, net profit of about 53 drug manufacturing companies including large multinationals increased by 60% in a period of just two years; and

(b) if so, the reasons for raising the maximum allowable post-manufacturing expenses to 100%?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) According to the monthly review (November, 1995) of the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy the PAT/ sales ratio for the drug sector was 8.7 in the first half of 94-95 and remained at the same level in 95-96.

(b) The provision of Maximum Allowable Post-manufacturing Expenses (MAPE) has been provided under DPCO, 1995 taking into account the various costs incurred by the manufacturer from the stage of ex-factory cost to retailing, which includes trade margin and margin for the manufacturer.

Schemes for removing Illiteracy and Boosting Elementary Education

2688. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any programme for removing illiteracy for giving boost to the elementary education in the country;

(b) whether Government have identified the areas in various States for holding 12 regional schemes during the year;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the cooperation sought for from the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) the amount disbursed/proposed to be disbursed during the current year and the next year to each state under the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The Total Literacy Campaign (TLC) has been made the principal strategy of the National Literacy Mission (NLM) for eradication of illiteracy throughout the country under which 49 million persons so far have been made literate as per NLM norms against and enrolement of 74 millions.

(b) The Government does not have any Regional Educational Scheme.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Appointment of Principals in Central Schools

2689. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Schools Organisation has invited applications to fill the posts of Principals in Central Schools;

(b) if so, the number of posts to be filled in 1995;

(c) whether all the candidates selected by Selection Committee have been appointed; and

(d) if not, by when they are likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan had invited application for filling up 92 posts of Principals.

Based on the recommendation of Selection Committee, the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has issued offers of appointment to 83 candidates.

Starvation deaths

2690. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any report on death due to starvation from the State Governments and Union Territories during the last four years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Cultivation of Soyabean

2691. DR. SHRIKANT RAM CHANDRA JICHKAR:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the States where the cultivation of Soyabean is being undertaken;

(b) the total area of land brought under such cultivation during each of the last three years; yearwise;

(c) the total production of soyabean during the above period, state-wise;

(d) the steps being taken by Government to increase the cultivation of Soyabean; and

(e) the details of the progress made in setting up of soyabean based industries like (Soya-milk, Soya-Cheese) etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN): (a) The major soyabean growing States are Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat.

(b) and (c) State-wise area and production for the last three years is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(d) To increase the cultivation of oilseeds including soyabean, Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is under implementation in 22 States covering 337 districts. Assistance is provided under OPP for production and distribution of seeds, distribution of sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, Rhyzobium culture and PSB, gypsum and pyrites, etc. Further, to propagate the production technology, frontline demonstrations are organised by the ICAR and block demonstrations by the State Departments of Agriculture.

(e) Much progress has not been made in setting up of soyabean based industries like soya-milk and soya-cheese. Some entrepreneurs have started production of soya products on a limited scale. However, 98 soyabean processing industries have been set up with an installed capacity of 70 lakh tonnes per annum.